

# Catamount Spirit

PUBLISHED FOR ALUMNI, FRIENDS & EMPLOYEES OF POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY



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## A Letter From the Provost:

*We are pleased to share with you many of the accomplishments of students, faculty, staff and alumni through this newsletter. In May, we graduated more than 200 students and look forward to another record-breaking freshman class this fall. Our dedicated faculty and staff are ready and eager to serve the students' needs as we all work together to challenge, motivate, and enhance their lives.*

*Your financial gifts are making a difference for our students. Over the past few months, we received the Deremer farm located just 15 miles from campus; the Gustafson family established the Oscar "Gus" Gustafson Agriculture Scholarship; the Bright family established the Lorna and Simeon M. Bright Memorial Scholarship for West Virginia resident students; and the Skip Hackworth Scholarship has been established in honor and recognition of his service in his tenure as superintendent of Mineral County Schools. For all of these gifts we are truly grateful.*

*We're looking forward to another great year. Your generosity and dedication have enabled us to expand and improve the campus, and to provide our students with tremendous opportunities. We are thankful for your support and continued interest in Potomac State College of West Virginia University. We hope to see you at Homecoming on October 15th!*

Sincerely,

Kerry S. Odell, Ph.D.  
Campus Provost

## Dr. Elizabeth Atwater to Return to Campus 2011 Homecoming



When Dr. Elizabeth Atwater's students talk about her, it's with respect and admiration. One immediately realizes that these alums hold her in such high esteem because of the profound effect she has had on their lives.

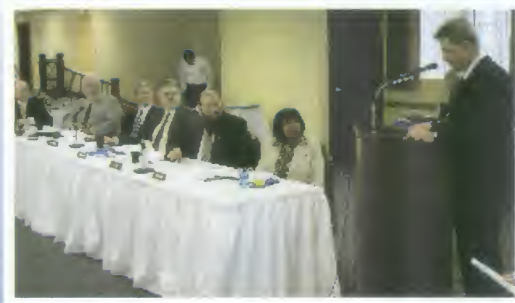
Dr. Atwater came to the College in the Fall of 1939 and immediately immersed herself in the lives of her students, from directing plays and teaching to supervising the writing, editing and layout of the *Pasquino*, the school newspaper.

Dr. Atwater distinguished herself with enthusiasm and dedication during her 39-year career at Potomac State where she served as professor and coordinator of the journalism department as well as a speech instructor.

Former students have achieved successes beyond their dreams; including positions like the dean of a journalism school, vice president of the Associated Press in New York City, professors at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, numerous journalists, and owners of public relations firms are just a few of the achievements earned by former students who benefitted from Dr. Atwater's tutelage and standard of excellence.

## BOG Holds Meeting On Campus This Past Spring

Campus Provost Kerry Odell (right) gave an enthusiastic welcome to the West Virginia University Board of Governors who held their regular April meeting on the Potomac State campus for the first time in more than 25 years. "Their visit was an opportunity for the College to showcase its many successes, dreams and aspirations and make the board aware of our future needs," said Odell.





## DelSignore recognized as Outstanding Staff Person



Vickie DelSignore was recognized as the "Outstanding Staff Person of the Year" for 2011. Vickie began her career at the College in 1985 as an administrative secretary. She also served as an executive secretary and purchasing clerk before transferring to the payroll position which she's

held since January 2000. She earned an associate degree from the College in 1985. Vickie and her husband, Mark, reside in New Creek, W.Va. and are the parents of Logan and Rachel. Campus Provost Kerry Odell presented the award.

## Students Renovate Tired Homes During Spring Break



Members of the Potomac State Campus and Community Ministries Club took an afternoon break from all the hammering, sawing and painting during their spring break project this past April. The group volunteered their time to help repair homes in Williamsburg, Va. Also lending a hand were members of the PSC staff and community as well as PSC alumni. Pictured back row left to right are: Students Katelyn Eichelberger, Ben Keplinger, Kathi Crites, Community Member Jim Peterson, Students Kendra Keplinger, Brandon Baker, and Kristen Storey. Front row: Community Member and Alumnus Gary Kalbaugh, Student Miranda Thorne, PSC Staff Libby Nichols, Students Stephanie Murray, Laura Horning, Kimberly Borrer, and Brenton Ebert. Not pictured are CCM Advisor Pastor Jim McCune, Alumna Wilma Shields Comeau, and Community Members Howard Boggs and Ron Hollingsworth.

## Falkowski named 'Professor of the Year'

Professor Henry Falkowski (center) was presented with the "Outstanding Professor of the Year" award by Campus Provost Kerry Odell (left) and Professor of Business and Computer Science Phil Douthitt. Dr. Falkowski earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He earned both his master's degree in analytical chemistry and his doctorate in chemistry education from WVU. Dr. Falkowski began teaching chemistry at the College in August 1976 and currently serves as professor of chemistry. He and his wife, Terry, reside in Keyser.



## Relay for Life Event Exceeds Expectations



Potomac State is thrilled to announce that their Relay for Life teams: Catamounts Against Cancer, Common Grounds, Divas Against Cancer, PSC Ag Club Against Cancer (pictured), PSC Serves You, Team Alumni (pictured), Team Brian and Team Justice exceeded their goal of \$10,000, raising a total of \$10,449.20 during the annual campus-wide event. Club Faculty Advisor Deanna Armentrout (far left), noted that PSC Ag Club Against Cancer and Team Alumni were practically neck-and-neck for raising the most funds of \$2,835.92 and \$2,827.64 respectively. All proceeds benefit The American Cancer Society.



# Honorees to be Recognized at Homecoming

Potomac State will recognize five individuals at the annual awards banquet during Homecoming festivities. The awards banquet will be held on October 15 in the Davis Conference Center; social hour is at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Libby Nichols at 304-788-6870, or 800-262-7332, ext. 6870 or at LMNichols@mail.wvu.edu, by October 7.

## Frank Gault, Alumni Achievement

Frank Gault attended Potomac State from 1952 – 1954 where he served as editor of the yearbook and as a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Circle K Club. After graduating from PSC, Frank earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. He has been an educator for 30 plus years, serving as a teacher, principal and superintendent of schools in Ohio. Frank is a charter member of the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, has served as chairperson of numerous educational committees, is a member of the American Association of Retired School Administrators, and has served as past president of the Central Ohio School Administrators and the Licking County Athletic League. He was involved with the study and subsequent establishment of the Newark campus of Ohio State University.



## Charles 'Sam' Kalbaugh, Alumni Achievement

Sam earned his associate degree from Potomac State in 1963. He has served in the educational field since 1973. From 1990 to 2002, Sam served as superintendent of schools in Mineral County, W.Va. While there he improved SAT and ACT scores, writing assessments, achievement test scores, increased college attendance and decreased the dropout rate. He also implemented major curricular and organizational initiatives, developed a comprehensive educational facilities plan which resulted in the construction of new middle and high schools, and provided updated technology with Internet access to all schools in the county. Sam earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education and his master's degree plus 45 hours in education administration from WVU. He currently serves as an educational consultant with Neola, Inc.

## Brian Withrow, Young Alumni Award

Brian graduated from Potomac State in 2000 with an associate degree in general studies. He earned both his bachelor's degree in education and his master's in professional education from Fairmont State University. Additionally, Brian has training in classroom assessment, balanced assessment, GLOBE, Trout in the Classroom and holds principal certification. He is active in coaching, serves as the GEAR UP Site Coordinator and works with the National Geographic Alliance at Madison Middle School where he teaches grades six through eight. Brian also volunteers his time coaching the Golden Horseshoe team and the Geography Bowl team. Professional affiliations include membership in the National Council on Geographic Education, WV Geographic Alliance and the American Federation of Teachers. Brian has been recognized as a team leader and was chosen as the 2011-2012 Boone County Schools Teacher of the Year.



## Local Ministers Recognized for Distinguished Service

The Reverends Sally Bartling and Jim McCune both serve as lecturers and co-advisors of the Campus & Community Ministries Club at the College. In the capacity of co-advisors, Sally and Jim volunteer their time with students for Bible study, monthly community service projects and spend one-on-one time with students helping them adjust to college life.

Additionally, the two coordinate an annual spring break service project. During this time, students and community volunteers have undertaken a variety of renovations including repairing roofs, building wheelchair accessible ramps, cleaning up after floods, and installing floors and kitchens.



### Sally Bartling

Sally has served as pastor of Trinity-Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church since 2001, has been a member of four delegations to El Salvador and served as president of Keyser Rotary. She has provided snacks and homemade cookies during finals week, offered home-cooked meals to students and is on-call for students, faculty and staff. Sally enjoys spending time taking students to local recreational areas, bowling and interacting with them in the dining hall. Sally earned her bachelor's degree from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., and her master of divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa.



### Jim McCune

Jim serves as pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Keyser, W.Va. He was recently awarded the 2011 Francis Asbury Award for fostering United Methodist ministries in higher education, where he oversees the campus ministry units at eight colleges and universities throughout West Virginia, including Potomac State. Jim is also involved with Helping Hands of the Potomac Highlands and the Mineral County Alternative School. He was also the recipient of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award, which honors individuals who exhibit outstanding efforts for their work in Christian evangelism. Jim earned his bachelor's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan and his master's of divinity from Methodist Theological School in Ohio.





## Cat Scratch Fever

The Catamounts had a winning season this past year; some even 'hit one out of the ballpark'.

The **baseball** team returned home to cheers and applause at a reception held in their honor after placing third at the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The **women's basketball** team hit the hoops hard this year going undefeated in the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference and winning the Pennsylvania Collegiate Athletic Association.

The **golf** team didn't putter around this season as they made their fourth consecutive trip to the Nationals and ended up 15th in the nation.

The **women's volleyball** team nearly aced the season with 20 wins and only 5 losses.

Having more than twenty games rained out didn't put a damper on the **women's softball** team. They still managed to win the Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference.

The **women's soccer** team drop-kicked most of the competition with a record of 11 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie.

**Men's soccer** ended the season with a record of 8 and 6.

**Men's basketball** ended the season with a record of 16 wins and 13 losses.

## Volunteers Wanted!!!

We like to tout the successes of our current and former students, so if you should read about our students in your local newspapers or on-line, please mail or forward the link to Libby Nichols, Alumni/Development Associate; 101 Fort Avenue; Keyser, WV 26726; or to [LMNichols@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:LMNichols@mail.wvu.edu). We send lots of press releases out but don't always know if they get published. We would like to thank the individuals who are already forwarding information and encourage others to take part in this endeavor.

## The 'Write' Stuff is 2011 Homecoming Theme

Calling all writers, editors and photojournalists - this is one homecoming you won't want to miss! Our theme for this year is The 'Write' Stuff and will revolve around Potomac State's student newspaper, the *Pasquino*. Our special guest of honor will be Dr. Elizabeth Atwater, former *Pasquino* advisor and instructor in speech and journalism.

Homecoming kicks off on **Friday, October 14**, with the annual **50's Get Together** at the Candlewyck Inn beginning at 6 p.m. The cost of the buffet is \$19.25 and includes a non-alcoholic drink, dessert, tax and gratuity. The deadline for reservations is October 7. Contact Pat Hovis at (304) 788-4065 or [phovis1@frontier.com](mailto:phovis1@frontier.com) for more information.

On **Saturday, October 15**, the **Homecoming Brunch & Recognition of Anniversary Classes 1961, 1986, and 2001** will be held in the Heritage Room (located in University Place) from 9 until 10:30 a.m. Dr. Odell will provide an update on the College at 10 a.m.

Other activities scheduled for Saturday include a **Campus Tour** at 10 a.m. and a **PSC Men's Soccer Match** with Montgomery College at 1 p.m. The bookstore will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to accommodate individuals wanting to purchase Potomac State and WVU items. The Library will also be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The day will culminate with the **Awards Banquet** which is being held in the Davis Conference Center. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Alumni Achievement Honorees include Sam Kalbaugh, Class of '63 and Frank Gault, Class of '54. Our Distinguished Service Honorees are Reverends Sally Bartling and Jim McCune. The recipient of the Young Alumni Award is Brian Withrow, Class of 2000.

**So don't wait** – make your reservations now by contacting Libby Nichols at 304-788-6870 or 800-262-7332, ext. 6870 or at [LMNichols@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:LMNichols@mail.wvu.edu) by October 7th.